CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for representing transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ messages as XML documents, the method comprising:

generating an XML document template from a transaction processing system ~~a~~ ~~IMS~~ message definition, the message definition representative of the syntax and semantics for messages exchanged with the transaction processing system; and

merging a transaction processing system ~~an IMS~~ message with the generated template to produce a corresponding XML document.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step comprises:

obtaining a transaction processing system ~~an IMS~~ message definition;

obtaining a DTD for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions;

compiling the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition with an option configured to produce an associated data (Adata) file; and

parsing the Adata file using the DTD to generate an XML document template corresponding to the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the generating step comprises:

obtaining a transaction processing system~~an IMS~~ message definition;

obtaining a DTD for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions; and

parsing the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition using the DTD to generate an XML document template corresponding to the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the Adata file comprises ~~at least one~~ a transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition in a ~~relatively language independent~~ format substantially semantically equivalent to ~~compared with~~ program source code from which the transaction processing system message definition originates.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition comprises:

extracting the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition from one of an application source code file and a copy file.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining the DTD comprises:

creating a UML object model for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions; and

processing the object model using an XMI utility to generate the DTD.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the merging step comprises:

identifying a placeholder within the XML document template for receiving a corresponding value from the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message;

reading the value from the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message; and

inserting the value into a location within the XML document template indicated by the placeholder.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the placeholder comprises an XML tag.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the identifying step comprises:

checking the placeholder for an associated tag indicating that a corresponding value exists within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~at least one~~ the placeholder has an associated tag indicating the size of the corresponding value within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message, the reading step comprising:

reading a portion of the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message corresponding to the indicated size.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for representing transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ messages as XML documents, the system comprising:

a template generation module configured to generate an XML document template from ~~an~~ a transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition, the message definition representative of the syntax and semantics for messages exchanged with the transaction processing system; and

a merging module configured to merge ~~an IMS~~ a transaction processing system message with the generated template to produce a corresponding XML document.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the template generating module comprises:

a compiler configured to compile a transaction processing system~~an IMS~~ message definition with an option configured to produce an associated data (Adata) file; and

a parser configured to parse the Adata file using a DTD for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions to generate an XML document template corresponding to the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~11, wherein the template generating module comprises:

a parser configured to obtain a DTD for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions and parse the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition using the DTD to generate an XML document template corresponding to the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the Adata file comprises ~~at least one~~ a transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition in a ~~relatively language independent~~ format substantially semantically equivalent to ~~compared with~~ program source code from which the transaction processing system message definition originates.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a message definition extractor configured to extract the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition from one of an application source code file and a copy file.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a modeling tool configured to create a UML object model for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions; and

an XMI utility for generating the DTD from the UML object model.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the merging module is further configured to identify a placeholder within XML document template for receiving a corresponding value from the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message; read the value from

the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message; and insert the value into a location within the XML document template indicated by the placeholder.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the placeholder comprises an XML tag.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~at least one~~ the placeholder comprises an associated tag indicating whether a corresponding value exists within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 7~~claim 17, wherein ~~at least one~~ the placeholder has an associated tag indicating the size of the corresponding value within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message.

21. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by the processor to perform a computer-implemented method for representing transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ messages as XML documents, the method comprising:

generating an XML document template from ~~an IMS~~ a transaction processing system message definition, the message definition representative of the syntax and semantics for messages exchanged with the transaction processing system; and

merging ~~an IMS~~ a transaction processing system message with the generated template to produce a corresponding XML document.

22. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 21, wherein the generating step comprises:

obtaining a transaction processing system ~~an IMS~~ message definition;

obtaining a DTD for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions;

compiling the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition with an option configured to produce an associated data (Adata) file; and

parsing the Adata file using the DTD to generate an XML document template corresponding to the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition.

23. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22, wherein the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition comprises program source code in a language selected from the group consisting of COBOL, PL/I, Assembler, and Pascal.

24. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22, wherein the Adata file comprises ~~at least one~~ a transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition in a ~~relatively language~~

~~independent~~ format substantially semantically equivalent to ~~compared with~~ program source code from which the transaction processing system message definition originates.

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22, wherein obtaining the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition comprises:

extracting the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definition from one of an application source code file and a copy file.

26. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22, wherein the step of obtaining the DTD comprises:

creating a UML object model for representing arbitrary transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message definitions; and

processing the object model using an XMI utility to generate the DTD.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22, wherein the merging step comprises:

identifying a placeholder within XML document template for receiving a corresponding value from the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message;

reading the value from the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message; and

inserting the value into a location within the XML document template indicated by the placeholder.

28. (Original) The article of claim 27, wherein the placeholder comprises an XML tag.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 27, wherein the identifying step comprises:

checking the placeholder for an associated tag indicating that a corresponding value exists within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message.

30. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 27, wherein ~~at least one~~the placeholder has an associated tag indicating the size of the corresponding value within the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message, the reading step comprising:

reading a portion of the transaction processing system ~~IMS~~ message corresponding to the indicated size.